



# The Farndon Bandsman

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the Farndon & District Brass Band*

## Happy Birthday to Us



The year was 1897, the year that the Automobile Club of Great Britain, later known as the RAC, was founded in London. The same year also saw Aston Villa win the FA Cup with a 3–2 win over Everton in the final at Crystal Palace. Marconi famously sent the first ever wireless communication over open sea, and Tate Gallery opened in London. It was the year that Queen Victoria celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of her accession to the throne in 1837, and that gives us a clue to the name the band was first given, The Jubilee Brass Band.

In these days of CDs MP3 players and digital downloads, it is perhaps difficult for us to fully appreciate the sense of privilege that listening to live music gave people, even though in 1877 Thomas Edison, had invented the first phonograph machine to record and play back sounds. So a local Brass Band was therefore central to any public celebration, and this period saw a huge increase in the number of brass bands being formed up and down the country.

Like many other, our band was established by public subscription. The Malpas Deanery Parish magazine refers to 'voluntary contributions of gentlemen in the neighbourhood.' These gentlemen must have been very generous as the instruments cost £60, which those days was sufficient to buy a house!

It went on to report that The Jubilee Brass Band consists of 25 members selected from Farndon and Holt. They began their first practice in October 1897, not one of the members having played or handled a brass instrument before.

If you would like to know more about the history of Farndon & District Brass Band we still have copies of the history of the band, which was produced for our centenary year in 1997.

## Memorial Service

The memorial service for the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Westminster was held at Chester Cathedral on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November. The service at the cathedral, which has a capacity of about 2,000, was attended by members of the Royal Family along with family, close friends, estate workers, VIPs and representatives of charities the Duke had links with. The Farndon & District Brass Band was represented on the day by Michael Trevor-Barnston, the new band president, and Tony Pugh the band chairman. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Prince of Wales. Also in attendance were the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Eugenie of York (representing the Duke of York), the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, Lady Rose Gilman, the Duke of Kent (representing the Duchess of Kent), Prince and Princess Michael of Kent and Princess Alexandra. The Hon. Lady Ogilvy also attended.



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## A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

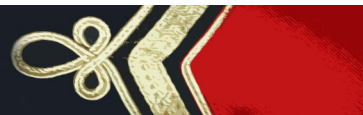
As usual every year the run up to Christmas is always a busy one for any brass band, and we at Farndon & District Brass Band are of course no different. This year has seen us play in a variety of locations, and here are just a few of them. Below, Santa made a grand entrance to the waiting crowds at Bellis Brothers Garden Centre on his sleigh pulled by two of his favourite reindeer. The Band was outside to play a selection of carols to add to the excitement of his arrival. They later moved inside to continue to play for the children and their mums and dads. Right, a Photoshop snowglobe of our Churton Village Hall rehearsal rooms.



When Santa arrived at his Christmas grotto, the reindeer were treated to some carrots while the children got a chance to see them up close, below.







## FROM FARNDON & DISTRICT BRASS BAND TO YOU ALL

Our last job in November took us to the Ice Cream Farm at Tattenall. If you thought it was a bit too cold in November for ice cream, you would be wrong. The farm was packed, and the selection of carols was very well received by the visitors, pictured right. This year saw the second annual Christmas Tree Festival in St. Chad's church, Farndon. The band again took part in the festivities on Saturday 3rd December. They played a selection of carols when the church tree lights were switched on, before leading the supporters to the Christmas Tree in the village for the second switch on. Once again the event was well supported on the evening.

Below, the band returned to the White Horse for their Carols and a little Christmas Music Charity fund raiser.

The inaugural European Market at the Farndon Community Club on the 16th December was also tremendously well supported by the locals, the Farndon Primary School Choir and many stallholders.







Every year Janet Barraclough the Junior Band Leader, decides who she feels has contributed most to the band that year. The Junior band also present certificates of achievement.

This year the awards were presented by our new president Michael Trevor-Barnston.

The award for junior bands person of the year 2016 was presented to Grace Crowe. She has shown real dedication to the band, through the hours of practice she puts in and her excellent attendance. Grace has always shown great commitment to playing the cornet, and this took on a new level when she was promoted to principal cornet in September. She exemplifies what a true brass band person is all about.

The two certificates of achievement were awarded to David Mellor and Frankie Conyers who have both shown real commitment to the band.

## Band Person of the Year 2016 Winners



Pictured above L to R, Michael Trevor-Barnston, Grace Crowe, Junior Bands Person of the Year, David Mellor and Janet Barraclough, Junior Band Leader.



## The Village Remembers

One of the first jobs in our diary every year is Remembrance Sunday in St.Chad's Church, Farndon. After the march from Farndon School, which is always well supported, the band sets up in the church for the service. Even though it was quite a crisp November morning the village once again turned out in large numbers. Sue Frencham represented the band and played 'The Last Post and the 'Rouse' to end the period of silence.

